

Bhojpuri language

Bhojpuri (/ˌboʊdʒˈpʊəriː/ ^[5] भोजपुरी) is an Indo-Aryan language spoken in northern-eastern India and the Terai region of Nepal.^[6] It is one of the most rapidly growing languages in the world according to People's Linguistic Survey of India.^[7] It is chiefly spoken in western Bihar and eastern Uttar Pradesh.^{[5][8]} Sociolinguistically, Bhojpuri is considered one of several Hindi dialects.^[9] The language is a minority language in Fiji, Guyana, Mauritius, South Africa, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.^{[10][11]}

Fiji Hindi, an official language of Fiji, is a variant of Awadhi and Bhojpuri. Caribbean Hindustani, another variant of Awadhi and Bhojpuri, is spoken by the Indo-Caribbean people.^[12] It has experienced lexical influence from Caribbean English in Trinidad and Tobago and in Guyana. In Suriname, languages that have lexically influenced it include Sranan Tongo Creole, Surinamese Dutch, and English. Another dialect is spoken in Mauritius; its use is declining. As of 2000 it is spoken by about 5% of the country's population.^[13]

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भोजपुरी • भोजपुरी	
 भोजपुरी भोजपुरी	
 The word "Bhojpuri" in Kaithi and Devanagari script	
Native to	India and Nepal
Region	Bhojpur-Purvanchal
Ethnicity	Bhojpuri
Native speakers	51 million, partial count (2011 census) ^[1] (additional speakers counted under Hindi)
Language family	Indo-European - Indo-Iranian - Indo-Aryan - Eastern Zone (Magadhan) - Bihari languages Bhojpuri
Dialects	Northern (Gorakhpuri, Sarawaria, Basti, Padrauna) Western (Purbi, Benarsi) Southern (Kharwari) Nagpuria (Sadari) Tharu Bhojpuri Madheshi Domra

Geographic distribution

The Bhojpuri-speaking region in India borders the Awadhi-speaking region to the west, the Nepali-speaking region to the north, the Magahi- and Maithili-speaking regions to the east, and the Magahi- and Bagheli-speaking regions to the south.^[6] In Nepal, Bhojpuri is a major language.^[11] Bhojpuri-speaking Muslims live in Bangladesh. Their population is lower than that of Bhojpuri speakers in Mauritius, South Africa, Fiji, and Caribbean nations.

Bhojpuri is spoken by descendants of indentured labourers brought in the 19th and early 20th centuries for work in plantations in British colonies. These Bhojpuri speakers live in Mauritius, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Suriname, Fiji, Jamaica, South Africa, and other parts of the Caribbean.^{[10][11][14]}

Dialects

Bhojpuri has several dialects: Southern Standard Bhojpuri, Northern Standard Bhojpuri, Western Standard Bhojpuri,^[15] and Nagpuria Bhojpuri.^{[16][11]} The first three are the major dialects.

Southern Standard Bhojpuri is prevalent in the Shahabad district (Buxar, Bhojpur, Rohtas, and Kaimur districts) and the Saran region (Saran, Siwan and Gopalganj districts) in Bihar, and the eastern Azamgarh (Ballia and Mau districts) and Varanasi (eastern part of Ghazipur district) regions in Uttar Pradesh. The dialect is also known as *Kharwari*. It can be further divided into Shahabadi, Chhaprahiya, and Pachhimahi.^[17]

Northern Bhojpuri is common in the western Tirhut division (east and west Champaran districts) in Bihar, and Gorakhpur division (Deoria, Kushinagar, Gorakhpur, and Maharajganj districts) and Basti division (Basti, Sidharthanagar, and Sant Kabir Nagar districts) in Uttar Pradesh. It is also spoken in Nepal.^[18]

Western Bhojpuri is prevalent in the areas of Varanasi (Varanasi, Chandauli, Jaunpur, and the western part of Ghazipur district), Azamgarh (Azamgarh district), and Mirzapur (Mirzapur, Sant Ravidas Nagar, and Bhadohi districts) in Uttar Pradesh. Banarasi is a local name for Bhojpuri, named after Banaras. Other names for Western Bhojpuri include *Purbi* and *Benarsi*.^[19]

Musahari
Caribbean Hindustani
• Trinidadian Hindustani (Trinidadian Bhojpuri, Plantation Hindustani, Gaon ke Bolee)
• Guyanese Hindustani (Aili Gaili)
• Sarnami Hindoestani
Fiji Hindi
Mauritian Bhojpuri
South African Bhojpuri (Naitali)^[2]

Writing system
Devanagari
Perso-Arabic
Kaithi (historical)

Official status

Official language in  Fiji (as the Fiji Hindi language)

Recognised minority language in  India (as a second language in Jharkhand)^[3]

Language codes

ISO 639-2
bho (https://www.loc.gov/standards/iso639-2/php/langcodes_name.php?code_ID=55)

ISO 639-3
bho – inclusive code
Individual codes:
hns – Caribbean Hindustani
hif – Fiji Hindi

Glottolog
bhoj1246 (<http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/bhoj1246>)^[4]

Linguasphere
59-AAF-sa



Nagpuria Bhojpuri is the southernmost popular dialect, Bhojpuri-speaking region in India found in the Chota Nagpur Plateau of Jharkhand, particularly parts of Palamau and Ranchi. It has been influenced more by the Magahi language than by other dialects.^{[16][18]} It is sometimes referred to as Sadari.^[20]

A more specific classification recognises the dialects of Bhojpuri as Bhojpuri Tharu, Domra, Madhesi, Musahari, Northern Standard Bhojpuri (Basti, Gorakhpuri, Sarawaria), Southern Standard Bhojpuri (Kharwari), and Western Standard Bhojpuri (Benarsi, Purbi).^[6]

Phonology

Vowels^[21]

	Front	Central	Back
<u>Close</u>	i ɪ		u
<u>Close-mid</u>	e	ə	o
<u>Open-mid</u>	ɛ		ɔ
<u>Open</u>	æ	ɑ	

Consonants^[21]

		<u>Labial</u>	<u>Dental</u>	<u>Alveolar</u>	<u>Retroflex</u>	<u>(Alveolo-)palatal</u>	<u>Velar</u>	<u>Glottal</u>
<u>Nasal</u>		m		n	ɳ	ɲ	ŋ	
<u>Stop</u>	<u>voiceless</u>	p	t		ʈ	tɕ	k	
	<u>voiced</u>	b	d		ɖ	dʒ	g	
	<u>aspirated</u>	pʰ	tʰ		ʈʰ	tɕʰ	kʰ	
	<u>breathy voiced</u>	bʱ	dʱ		ɖʱ	dʒʱ	gʱ	
<u>Fricative</u>				s				h
<u>Rhotic</u>	<u>plain</u>			r	ɽ			
	<u>aspirated</u>			rʰ	ɽʰ			
<u>Approximant</u>		w~ʋ		l		j		

Bhojpuri is, sociolinguistically, one of the seven Hindi languages (Haryanvi, Braj, Awadhi, Bhojpuri, Bundeli, Bagheli, and Kannauji).^[9] Of the seven, Bhojpuri has the most allophonic variations in vowels.^[22]

Bhojpuri has 6 vowel phonemes^[23] and 10 vocoids. The higher vowels are relatively tense, and the lower vowels are relatively lax. The language has 31 consonant phonemes and 34 contoids (6 bilabial, 4 apico-dental, 5 apico-alveolar, 7 retroflex, 6 alveo-palatal, 5 dorso-velar, and 1 glottal).^[21]

Linguist Robert L. Trammell published the phonology of Northern Standard Bhojpuri in 1971.^{[21][23]} According to him, the syllable system is peak type: every syllable has the vowel phoneme as the highest point of sonority. Codas may consist of one, two, or three consonants. Vowels occur as simple peaks or as peak nuclei in diphthongs. The intonation system involves 4 pitch levels and 3 terminal contours.^{[21][24]}

Writing system

Bhojpuri was historically written in Kaithi script,^[6] but since 1894 Devanagari has served as the primary script. Kaithi is now rarely used for Bhojpuri.

Kaithi script was used for administrative purposes in the Mughal era for writing Bhojpuri, Awadhi, Maithili, Magahi, and Hindustani from at least the 16th century up to the first decade of the 20th century. Government gazetteers report that Kaithi was used in a few districts of Bihar throughout the 1960s. Bhojpuri residents of India who moved to British colonies in Africa, the Indian Ocean, and the Caribbean in the 19th and early 20th centuries used both Kaithi and Devanagari scripts.^[10]

By 1894 both Kaithi and Devanagari became common scripts to write official texts in Bihar. At present almost all Bhojpuri texts are written in Devanagari, even in islands outside of India where Bhojpuri is spoken. In Mauritius, Kaithi script was historically considered informal, and Devanagari was sometimes spelled as *Devanagri*. In modern Mauritius, the major script is Devanagari.^[25]

Politeness

Bhojpuri syntax and vocabulary reflects a three-tier system of politeness. Any verb can be conjugated through these tiers. The verb *to come* in Bhojpuri is *aana*, and the verb *to speak* is *bolna*. The imperatives *come!* and *speak!* can be conjugated in five ways, each marking subtle variation in politeness and propriety. These permutations exclude a host of auxiliary verbs and expressions, which can be added to verbs to add another degree of subtle variation. For extremely polite or formal situations, the pronoun is generally omitted.

Literary	[teh] āō	[teh] bōl
Casual and intimate	[tu] āō	[tu] bōl
Polite and intimate	[tum] āv'	[tum] bōl'
Formal yet intimate	[rau'ā] āiñ	[rau'ā] bōliñ
Polite and formal	[āpne] āiñ	[āp] bōliñ
Extremely formal	āwal jā'e	bōlal jā'e

Similarly, adjectives are marked for politeness and formality. The adjective *your* has several forms with different tones of politeness: *tum* (casual and intimate), "tōhār" (polite and intimate), "t'hār" (formal yet intimate), *rā'ur* (polite and formal), and *āpke* (extremely formal). Although there are many tiers of politeness, Bhojpuri speakers mainly use the form *tum* to address a younger individual and *aap* for an individual who is older, or holds a higher position in workplace situations.

Status

एक कानो के हु देहा १९०० । सो में से मोहका काने बाब से कहलस को
ह बाब हमने काना के कहल माह मफाव हो पलस हम के हा, रसो पर काना
हुली देहन के बाबन वन वीह देहल । वृष जिन ना मेरी पालस को मोहका देहा
हुल बाबन वन वीह के कानो हुन देह के निहल जलस बीर बाबन वन पलस
माह में ठगो पुनो ठगल । जल हुल मोहन वन मोहा जल वन मोह देह में
वृष कल पलस, मो ठगला के मोहलाह होने जल । वन क जल के मोह देह के
एक कान के नलसला के बाब पलसल । क कानो सो के काने मोह में भूतन नलसो
के बाबो मोह देहल । मोहन ५ वहा हो जल को जलस भुलीला मुली माह
नलसो कली को को के निहल सो क मोरी से बाबन देह मुली से जलस, ठीकन हो
वा को के जल देह नलस । जल को के जल माह सो क काने वन में कहल को
जलस मोहलाह नलसलस हमने बाब के वीह मोहने माह के नलस हम नलस
वन जल को हम मुलस नलस हो । हम जलस काने बाब किल जल को कल को
ह बाब हम मोहने कानो को वल के बाब कलस, एह बाबन नलसो को वन, हम के
जल मोहन देहा करे । कानो मोहलाह नलसलस में से हम के कानो के नलस ।
हो कल के क जल को काने बाब किल माह । जल हुने नलस गने मोहन बाब को के
देहलस । सो के वहा माह, ठगो के जल, मोहने जल जल को सो के लुनलस । वन
देहलस काने बाब से कहल को ह बाब हम मोहने लुनलस को वल के बाब
कलस, वन मोहन देहा कलस बाबन । ठीकन नलस काने मोहन से कहल
को जलस काना से काना कलस हो जलस ठीक के मोह के वलसलाह जल को कल
के हम में कलसो को वल में लुनलस वलसला को वन के लुनलस माह जल को
मुली कली, कल के को ५ ललस देहा वन के वल जलस है, देहा के वल
नलस है । वली पर वन के लुनलस को कल जलस ।

Bhojpuri story written in Kaithi script
by Babu Rama Smaran Lal in 1898



The word *Bhojpuri* written in Kaithi script



Signboard at Purbi Gumti Arrah along with Persian script (on the right side) and Roman script (above). "Lock no. 11" is written on the board in Bhojpuri.

Greater official recognition of Bhojpuri, such as by inclusion in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India, has been demanded.^[26] In 2018, Bhojpuri was given second-language status in Jharkhand state of India.^[27] It is also an official language in Fiji as Fiji Hindi.

Bhojpuri is taught in matriculation and at the higher secondary level in the Bihar School Education Board and the Board of High School and Intermediate Education Uttar Pradesh. It is also taught in various universities in India, such as Veer Kunwar Singh University,^[28] Banaras Hindu University,^[29] Nalanda Open University,^[30] and Dr. Shakuntala Misra National Rehabilitation University.^[31]

Literature

Lorikayan, the story of Veer Lorik contains Bhojpuri folklore from Eastern Uttar Pradesh.^[32] Bhikhari Thakur's Bidesiya is a play, written as a book. *Phool Daliya* is a well-known book by Prasiddh Narayan Singh. It comprises poems of *veer ras* (A style of writing) on the theme of *azaadi* (*Freedom*) about his experiences in the Quit India movement and India's struggle with poverty after the country gained independence.

0:00 / 0:00

A common folk tune for North India, "Prabhu Yeshu Ji Khulala Darbaar Baay," with lyrics by Ambika Prasad, 2018

Media

Many Bhojpuri magazines and papers are published in Bihar, Jharkhand, and Uttar Pradesh. Several Bhojpuri newspapers are available locally in North India; they are not wealthy enough to be published online. *Parichhan* is a contemporary literary-cultural Maithili-Bhojpuri magazine, published by a Maithili-Bhojpuri academy and the government of Delhi, and edited by Parichay Das. *The Sunday Indian, Bhojpuri*^[33] is a regular national news magazine in Bhojpuri. *Aakhar* is a monthly online Bhojpuri literature magazine.^[34] Other media in Bhojpuri include *Lok Lucknow*,^[35] and the channels Mahuaa TV and Hamar TV.

Common words

Weekdays

English	Bhojpuri (Latin script)	भोजपुरी (कायथी लिपि; Kaithi)	भोजपुरी (देवनागरी लिपि; Devanagari)
Sunday	Eitwaar	एतवार	एतवार
Monday	Somaar	सोमार	सोमार
Tuesday	Mangar	मंगर	मंगर
Wednesday	Budhh	बुध	बुध
Thursday	Bifey	बियफे	बियफे
Friday	Sukkar	सूकर	सूकर
Saturday	Sanichar	सनिचर	सनिचर

Common phrases

English	Bhojpuri	भोजपुरी (Kaithi)	भोजपुरी
Hello	Raam Raam / Parnaam	राम राम / परनाम	राम राम / परनाम
Welcome/Please come in	Aain na	आई ना	आई ना
How are you?	Ka haal ba? / kaisan hava?	का हाल बा? / कइसन हवऽ?	का हाल बा? / कइसन हवऽ?
I'm good. And you?	Hum theek baani. Aur rauwa?	हम ठीक बानी—आऊँ 1ऊँ? /हम ठीक हजि— आऊँ 1आप?	हम ठीक बानी। अउर रउवा? / हम ठीक हजि। अउर आप?
What is your name?	Tohaar naav ka ha? / Raur naav ka ha?	तोहार नाँव का हऽ?/राउर नाँव का हऽ?	तोहार नाँव का ह? / राउर नाँव का ह?
My name is ...	Hamar naav ... ha	हमारा नाँव ... हऽ	हमारा नाँव ... ह
What's up?	Kaa hot aa?	का होता?	का होताऽ?
I love you	Hum tohse pyaar kare ni / Hum tohra se pyaar kare ni	हम तोह से प्यार करेनी/ हम तोहरा से प्यार करेनी	हम तोहसे प्यार करे नी / हम तोहरा से प्यार करे नी

Example text

The following is Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in four languages:

- Bhojpuri – अनुच्छेद 1: सबहि लोकानि आजादे जन्मेला आउर ओखिनियो के बराबर सम्मान आओर अधिकार प्राप्त हवे। ओखिनियो के पास समझ-बूझ आउर अंतःकरण के आवाज होखता आओर हुनको के दोसरा के साथ भाईचारे के बेवहार करे के होखला।^[36]
- Hindi – अनुच्छेद १: सभी मनुष्यों को गौरव और अधिकारों के मामले में जन्मजात स्वतन्त्रता और समानता प्राप्त हैं। उन्हें बुद्धि और अन्तरात्मा की देन प्राप्त है और परस्पर उन्हें भाईचारे के भाव से बर्ताव करना चाहिये।^[37]
- Sarnāmi Hindustani (a dialect of Caribbean Hindustani) – Aadhiaai 1: Sab djanne aadjádi aur barabar paidaa bhailèn, iddjat aur hak mē. Ohi djanne ke lage sab ke samadj-boedj aur hierdaai hai aur doesare se sab soemmat sè, djaane-maane ke chaahin.^[38]
- English – Article 1: All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.^[39]

See also

- Culture of Bhojpuri Region
- Bhojpuri cinema

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External links

- [The Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Bhojpuri](#), United Nations Information Centre, India (1998)
 - [Archived open-access recordings of Bhojpuri](https://scholarspace.manoa.hawaii.edu/handle/10125/4250/simple-search?filterquery=Bhojpuri&filtername=language&filtertype>equals) (<https://scholarspace.manoa.hawaii.edu/handle/10125/4250/simple-search?filterquery=Bhojpuri&filtername=language&filtertype>equals>) from [Kaipuleohone](#)
 - [English-Bhojpuri Machine Translation System](https://arxiv.org/abs/1905.02239) (<https://arxiv.org/abs/1905.02239>)
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